

Certificate of Authenticity

We guarantee that the coin illustrated is genuine and is as described:



Coin Type: CRUSADER
Denomination: DENARO
Ruler: CONRAD III
Min: GENOA
Country: ITALY

Date: CIRCA 1147
Metal: SILVER
Framing: 18 KT/STERLING CLIP
Certificate Number: 12810

SILVER DENARO

Obverse: Cross of Jerusalem inside the inscription CONRAD III.

Reverse: Outline of a medieval castle.

The Denaro was struck in Genoa, Italy, the birthplace of Columbus, between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. Similar in size and style to small silver European coins issued during the Crusader period, they became one of the major trade coins circulated in the Eastern Mediterranean from the end of the Crusades until the middle of the millennium. Hoards of Denaros have been unearthed in such diverse locations as Tripoli, Lebanon, and Syria.

Emperor Conrad III of Germany led the Second Crusade along with King Louis VII of France. All along he believed the preachings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux in France; that the Crusade was not merely an act of war to secure the holy places, but a means of redemption - Christ would offer the warriors of Europe a blessed avenue of salvation.

Featured on the obverse of the coin is the cross of Jerusalem or the Maltese cross. The Maltese cross is a symbol of the Christian warrior, of protection, a badge of honor. While the Knights of St. John, a band of courageous crusaders, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land, they were bombarded by glass bombs of naphtha. As the crusaders became saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming tree into their midst. Hundreds of Knights were burned alive while others risked their lives to save their brothers from the dreadful fire. These Crusaders became the first courageous Fire Fighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Crusaders who awarded each hero with a badge of honor; a cross similar to the one Fire Fighters wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for nearly four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea, named Malta, the cross became known as the Maltese cross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Wagner'.

Numismatic Authenticator

Dave Wagner, American Numismatic Association Member #172893

ARCA